

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1, in which reference numeral 7 has been added, and changes to Fig. 7, in which reference numeral 12 has been added. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-11, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-11.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 25, 2006, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract and claims 7-13, claims 7-3 were under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fleischer '728* (European Patent Application 0 187 728).

At the outset, Applicants would like to affirm the election of Group II, claims 7-13, without traverse.

The specification has been amended to correct the typographical error in the priority information, the drawings have been amended to include reference numeral "7", and the abstract has been amended to delete the objected to terminology. Accordingly, Applicants submit the Examiner's objections have been obviated.

As set forth above, claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the side-edge portions of one of the front portion and the rear portion comprise folded parts and claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the side-edge portions of only one of the front portion and the rear portion comprise folded parts, thereby removing any indefiniteness as which portion includes folded parts. Applicants thus contend that the rejection under Section 112 should be withdrawn.

As amended above, Claim 7 recites that each of the side-edge portions of at least one of the front portion and the rear portion comprises a folded part defined by an end edge of the inner cover sheet being folded over so as to face the inner cover sheet and that the folded parts bear against and are connected directly to the inner

cover sheet of the side-edge portions of the other of the front portion and the rear portion by a weld seam. Applicants respectfully submit that at least these features are not disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

The primary reference upon which the Examiner relies, *Fleischer '728*, discloses "inturned contacting side edge portions" which are joined together along a narrow bond portion 25 that is spaced from the free ends 26 of the side edge portions. See, page 13, lines 17-20. Accordingly, and as illustrated in Figure 3, *Fleischer '728* discloses an embodiment having two inturned edge portions such that the inturned edge portion of the front or rear portion will be abutting the outer cover sheet of the other inturned edge portion – not the inner cover sheet thereof as recited in claim 7. In addition, claim 7 has been amended to clarify the term "folded" part as an end edge of the inner cover sheet being folded over so as to face the inner cover sheet. Referring to Figure 3, it is shown that the free end of the inner cover sheet is inturned but that the inturned end does not face the inner cover sheet. As such, Applicants submit that the inturned ends of *Fleischer '728* do not meet the limitations of the folded parts, as recited in claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 7 as amended above is not anticipated by *Fleischer '728*.

Claim 8 has been amended above to recite that the side-edge portions of only one of the front portion and the rear portion comprise folded parts. *Fleischer '728* discloses in Figure 3 an embodiment having inturned edge portions on both the front and the rear and in Figure 4 an embodiment having no inturned edge portions. Accordingly, *Fleischer '728* does not suggest the use of only one folded part as recited in claim 8. Moreover, as *Fleischer '728* describes the benefit to be gained by having a flap portion 27 formed by the free ends of the side edge portions, i.e., a

cushion between a person's body and the stiff bond portion 25, Applicants submit it would not be obvious to modify *Fleischer* '728 without destroying this intended benefit.

Newly added claim 15 further recites that the folded part is defined by the end edge of the inner cover sheet being folded over approximately 180 degrees so as to face the inner cover sheet. Applicants submit *Fleischer* '728 does not disclose this feature.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made every possible effort to expedite the prosecution of the application. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

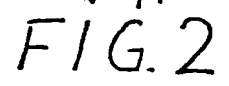
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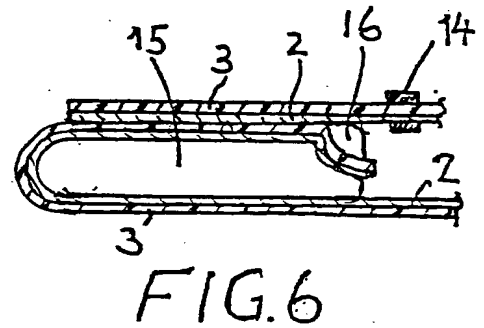
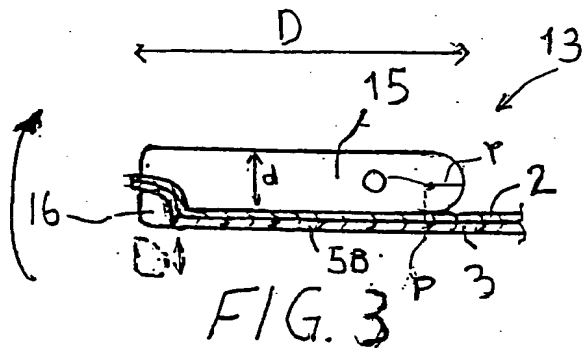
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Reference numeral
"12" added

